



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Volume 6, Number 3



A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

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ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of over 1,100 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish and invertebrates, pinnipeds, cetaceans and sea birds. The sanctuary also has a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Comment Period Closes on Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Regarding Proposed Modifications to Large Vessel Sewage Discharge Regulations

From March 28 through May 30, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) sought public input on a management plan supplemental proposal to regulate sewage and graywater discharges into sanctuary waters from large vessels (300 gross registered tons or more), including cruise ships and container ships. The sanctuary received sixteen comment letters and emails from a variety of state and federal agencies, shipping and cruise line industry associations, non-profit conservation organizations, the sanctuary advisory council, and general members of the public.

The proposal stemmed from the sanctuary's management plan review public process conducted in 2006. During that process, NOAA received substantial public and agency comments requesting more stringent sanctuary regulation of sewage (*continued on next page*)

Window on the Sanctuary

Dolphins can be seen year round in the sanctuary. They can often be seen traveling, feeding on concentrations of small fish, or "surfing" the waves of large boats. Short-beaked and long-beaked common, Risso's, and bottlenose dolphins are among the most frequently observed. Photo: David Pu'u, photographer and film maker, is based out of Ventura and is currently the featured artist at Chase Palm Park Center in Santa Barbara.



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and graywater discharges from large vessels, and consistency with the California Clean Coast Act. The sanctuary's eastern edge is overlapped by shipping lanes that are transited by nearly 7,000 large vessels per year, and NOAA is concerned about the high volumes of sewage and graywater that they could discharge. The new proposal would help maintain sanctuary water quality and protect sanctuary resources, while continuing to allow large vessels to travel through sanctuary waters. Because the vast majority of large vessels in the sanctuary are only there to use the shipping lanes, the proposed regulations would require them to hold sewage and graywater on board for less than 20 nautical miles when traveling in the northwest-bound lane, and for less than 40 nautical miles when traveling in the southeast-bound lane. Most large vessels can cover these distances in approximately one to two-and-a-half hours.

CINMS staff are now assessing the comments received and will incorporate responses and document changes into the forthcoming Final Environmental Impact Statement, Final Management Plan, and Final Rule. Information about the management plan revision process, including several downloadable documents, is available on the "Management Plan" section of the sanctuary's web site (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>).

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Emergency Response

Sanctuary Advisory Council Endorses Emergency Response Plan to Reduce Ship Strikes on Whales

On May 30, the sanctuary advisory council (advisory council) endorsed a Prevention and Emergency Response Plan to Reduce Ship Strikes on Blue Whales and Other Large Cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel, and forwarded it to Chris Mobley (Sanctuary Superintendent). The plan draws on an Incident Command System framework and details: how and when NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard issue a Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) to reduce ship speeds when large cetaceans are present; aerial surveillance to track large cetaceans; education and outreach to the shipping industry; and stranding network protocols. The advisory council's ship strike subcommittee developed the plan with input from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Coast Guard, the sanctuary, and the Marine Exchange of Southern California. These

efforts follow the unfortunate and unprecedented mortality in 2007 of several blue whales – including two suspected and two confirmed ship strikes – which occurred within a two month period in or near the sanctuary.

In June, sanctuary staff resumed aerial surveillance focused on the shipping lanes. Staff did not observe cetaceans on a June 16 flight. The sanctuary will conduct additional flights throughout the blue whale season.

In response to a recommendation from NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard began broadcasting over the marine radio a LNM on June 25 that advises mariners of the presence of blue whales and to exercise caution while transiting the Santa Barbara Channel; see below.

CALIFORNIA SEACOAST-WHALES-POINT CONCEPTION TO POINT DUME

Vessels transiting the Santa Barbara Channel should be aware of the potential of Blue Whales feeding in the channel and the shipping lanes between the months of June through mid November. Mariners should exercise caution when traveling through the channel and in and out of Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors, as blue whales maybe distributed throughout the area. Blue whales are an endangered species protected under Federal law. Please report any collisions with whales or any observed injured or dead whales to NOAA at 562-980-4017 or to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Sanctuary Responds to Grounded Vessel at Smugglers Cove, Santa Cruz Island

On June 18, a 38-foot cabin cruiser, the *Hakuna Matata*, ran hard aground in Smugglers Cove, on the south side of Santa Cruz Island. There were no reported injuries to the crew of two who were ashore at the time of the grounding. The U.S. Coast Guard has been directing Vessel Assist out of Ventura Harbor on the response effort. Thus far the owner and insurance company have been very cooperative. Three attempts to refloat the vessel failed and the vessel broke up in the surf zone discharging approximately 200 gallons of gasoline. Debris removal continues along the shoreline and surf zone. Sanctuary staff continue to coordinate the response with the U. S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.





Photo mosaic of southwestern Santa Cruz Island, overlaid with the eastern Gull Island marine reserve boundary (shown here as a red line). This image was taken approximately 450 m from shore. Photo: NOAA.

Marine Reserves

Sanctuary Ground Truths Channel Islands MPA Network Boundaries

On June 9, several sanctuary staff and advisory council members sailed aboard the sanctuary's research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater* to ground-truth several marine reserve and marine conservation area boundaries around Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands that are part of the Channel Islands MPA network. The intent of this ongoing project is to visually document the MPA boundaries for education and outreach purposes, and to ground-truth the geographic coordinates. The project is supported by the advisory council. The forthcoming photo products will aid mariners in visually delineating the MPA boundaries (see example photo mosaic above).

Social Science Coordinator Contract Renewed

The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) West Coast Region Office has awarded a one year contract to Chris LaFranchi of Natural Equity to continue the implementation of social science monitoring in CINMS. LaFranchi's time will be split between CINMS (where he will initiate a recreational charter boat survey to gauge the effects of the Channel Islands Marine Protected Area, or MPA, Network), and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (where he will support that sanctuary's process to designate MPAs in their federal waters).

NOAA Marine Charting Division Adds Channel Islands MPA Note to Electronic Navigation Chart Products

The Sanctuary is collaborating with NOAA's Marine Charting Division (MCD) to amend the NOAA Navigation Charts for the sanctuary region by adding a note about the state and federal MPA network. MCD has also added the federal water MPA boundary lines to the electronic navigation charts that can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/MCD/enc/index.htm>.

The new chart note is expected to be listed in the U.S. Coast Guard District 11, LNM week 28/2008 report. The text of the note is as follows.

NOTE: NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES & MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

National Marine Sanctuaries are protected areas, administered by NOAA, which contain sensitive and diverse natural and cultural resources. These areas are particularly sensitive to environmental damage such as spills of oil and other hazardous materials, discharges and groundings. Exercise particular caution and follow applicable Sanctuary regulations when transiting these areas. A full description of Sanctuary regulations may be found in 15 CFR 922 and in the U.S. Coast Pilot. A full description of the federal regulations governing the Marine Protected Areas located within Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary boundaries may be found in 15 CFR 922 and 50 CFR 660. A full description of the state regulations governing the Marine Protected Areas located within Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary may be found in Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 632.

Negotiations continue with MCD to plot the state and federal MPA boundaries on the paper charts.

Marine Debris Removal

Sanctuary Staff Participate in Fishing Gear Recovery Project at Local Pier

Sanctuary staff participated in a clean up of Goleta Pier on June 12. Claire Fackler (ONMS West Coast Education Liaison) and Dani Lipski (Sanctuary Research Specialist) joined divers and volunteers from Santa

Barbara Channel Keeper and SeaDoc Society for this underwater clean up. The event was organized by SeaDoc Society, a University of California Davis-based group that conducts marine debris removal projects throughout California. A large clean up effort was completed at coastal piers in 2007 and a smaller volume of fishing gear was removed this year. Divers at Goleta Pier removed a fishing rod, monofilament, hooks, weights, ropes, and traps as well as various trash items, including a lawn chair. SeaDoc Society will be conducting a marine debris and lost fishing gear removal project in the sanctuary in 2008.

Resource Protection Specialist Internship

Steve Choy has accepted a paid summer internship as a Resource Protection Specialist with CINMS. Choy recently graduated from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). Choy has worked with the sanctuary for the past two years, processing and analyzing spatial data collected during sanctuary aerial monitoring flights and data collected from California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) enforcement patrol logs. Choy will continue these projects and other assigned duties to support the Resource Protection Department and the advisory council.

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The sanctuary welcomes and congratulates ten recently appointed new and returning advisory council representatives. They are listed below followed by a note about their status, seat, and for new members their affiliation.

- Maria Petueli (new Education member; Ty Warner Sea Center, Santa Barbara)
- Jose Chicote (new Education alternate; elementary school science teacher, Ventura)
- Amy Spandrio (new Public At-Large alternate; student affairs office, California State University, Channel Islands)
- Jacy Ontiveros (new Chumash Community member; Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians)
- Alan Salazar (new Chumash Community alternate; Chumash storyteller and *tomol* paddler, Paso Robles)

- Andrea Moe (reappointed, Tourism alternate)
- Dan Powell (reappointed, Public At-Large alternate - was formerly Education alternate)
- Capt. David Bacon (reappointed, Recreational Fishing member)
- Merit McCrea (reappointed, Recreational Fishing alternate)
- Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Brittany Steward (agency seat replacement, U.S. Coast Guard alternate)

The full roster of advisory council members is available on line at

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/member.html>.

VESSEL OPERATIONS

During the current reporting period (May 3 – June 20), the R/V *Shearwater* spent a total of twenty-one days at sea, including eighteen days dedicated to research and monitoring, and three days dedicated to education and outreach. *Shearwater* operations are described in brief below.

Research and Monitoring

- Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park) kelp forest monitoring project, kelp forest dive surveys, May 1-2, 19-20, 24
- USCB larval fish survey using plankton net tows along transect lines, May 5-6
- California Institute of Environmental Studies Xantus's Murrelet population survey of various sea shore habitats, May 29
- UCSB Plumes and Blooms conductivity, temperature, and depth (CTD) survey of Santa Barbara Channel, May 30
- UCSB & CINP joint ecosystem/MPA dive survey, June 3-6
- CINMS MPA boundary ground truth photo project, June 9
- UCSB Plumes and Blooms, CTD and sediment trap survey of Santa Barbara Channel, June 12-13
- CINP kelp forest monitoring project, kelp forest dive surveys, June 20
- UCSB & National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Coil Oil Point methane sampling calibration cruise, including over flights of DC-8 and ER-2 aircraft, June 18-19



Education and Outreach

- MERITO Academy outreach trip, May 27
- Santa Barbara Maritime Museum outreach trip, May 28
- Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education and Training (TEAWET) cruise, conducting plankton tows, and landing teachers ashore on Santa Cruise Island, June 16

Upcoming Operations for Late June and July

- UCSB Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) visual dive surveys of reefs and collection of various urchins
- CINMS High definition film dive support
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography acoustic mooring recovery and deployment.

Vessel Maintenance

The R/V *Shearwater* passed inspections by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

New Research Vessel

CINMS expects to take delivery of a new custom built 41-foot catamaran research vessel named *Xantu* in late July. The vessel was built by Seemans Composites in Gulf Port, Mississippi and underwent sea trials in the Gulf of Mexico.

RESEARCH & MONITORING

Research and Monitoring Activities

Research Project Measures Predation Rates in MPAs
Anne Salomon (David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow) and Dr. Steve Katz (Sanctuary Research Coordinator) conducted an experiment to measure predator-prey dynamics and rates in marine reserve versus non-reserve areas in the sanctuary with the assistance of sanctuary SCUBA divers. The scientists evaluated predation rates on urchins and kelp and measured urchins and predators in the ambient environment. The research aims to: 1) investigate the extent to which fishing alters key ecosystem processes such as predation, herbivory, productivity and carbon flow, all of which are known to drive ecosystem function; and 2) develop a predictive model that managers can use to determine where, when, and under

what conditions cascading trophic effects of fishing are likely to ensue. The scientists conducted the experiments at Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands from the R/V *Shearwater* from June 3-10. Salomon and Katz plan to expand the project to Santa Rosa and San Miguel islands in Fall 2008.

Channel Islands Cormorant Nesting Surveys Completed
University of California Santa Cruz seabird biologists, assisted by Dani Lipski, completed aerial seabird surveys at all southern California Islands and some mainland sites from May 19-20. The scientists took photographs of nesting seabird colonies on the islands and offshore rocks to assess long-term population trends of Brandt's and Double-crested Cormorants. These surveys have been conducted since 1979 and contribute baseline data to: assess injuries to seabird populations caused by oil spills or other disturbance, determine the effects of climate fluctuations on seabird populations, and assess opportunities for and effectiveness of seabird restoration projects.

The scientists receive funding from the CDFG's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response. The sanctuary permitted the otherwise prohibited low overflights in the sanctuary's nearshore zone. Flights were conducted in a CDFG Partnavia Observer aircraft.

Channel Islands White Abalone Recovery Research
From April 23-24, the sanctuary supported a research cruise with NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center White Abalone Recovery Team on board the R/V *Shearwater*. Scientists visited Farnsworth Bank and nearshore sites at Santa Catalina Island, one of the last known locations of white abalone. During previous cruises they found no living white abalone, but did observe shells, indicating that the area had historically been viable abalone habitat. They found living green and pink abalone on previous cruises, and the goal of this cruise was to monitor extant populations of green, pink, and white abalone and evaluate habitat for recovery efforts. Researchers also hoped to develop techniques for validating age and growth rates of red and white abalone. Researchers surveyed sites to search for abalone and to evaluate habitat characteristics.

This collaborative effort between the sanctuary, NMFS, the park, and CDFG supports recovery of an endangered species.



Citizen Science

For general information about the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) volunteers who conduct citizen science, please see p. 13.

State of California Harmful Algal Bloom Study

CINC volunteers continue to conduct plankton tows on board the R/V *Shearwater* as part of a statewide study on harmful algal blooms. The tows are done in cooperation with Plumes and Blooms research cruises scheduled throughout the year. Due to a recent increase in sea lion strandings, the California Department of Public Health suspects an increase of domoic acid in the Santa Barbara Channel and has requested additional plankton samples from the sanctuary. The California Department of Public Health's Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program monthly reports can be found on the following web page for viewing or downloading:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Shellfish.aspx>.

For information on domoic acid and what to do if you observe a sick or dead animal please visit the sanctuary's domoic acid web page at:
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/dom.html>.

Anacapa Island Larval Settlement Study

Several CINC volunteers continue to assist with a benthic larval settlement study in conjunction with the park and UCSB. They collect samples two times per month at Anacapa Island with transportation on board the park vessel *Sea Ranger*.

Marine Mammal Sightings Database Integrated into the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN)

CINC volunteers continue to enter marine mammal sightings data from the Santa Barbara Channel into the Marine Mammal Sightings Database: <http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/>. Over 9,000 reports have been entered over the past six years, representing over 18 species of marine mammals and thousands of individual animals. This data will be integrated into SIMoN, which enables researchers to monitor the sanctuary effectively by integrating the existing monitoring programs and identifying gaps in information. SIMoN serves to make the monitoring data available to managers, decision makers, the research community, and the general public. In addition, data

collected by CINC volunteers will be used to track blue whale sightings as part of the Prevention and Emergency Response Plan to Reduce Ship Strikes on Blue Whales and Other Large Cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Research Fellow

Megan McKenna, a graduate student at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), will provide critical data analysis to NOAA on ship traffic and marine acoustics in summer 2008. McKenna was awarded an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship through SIO that supports her work with CINMS this summer. McKenna will use the Automated Identification System (AIS) data from fall 2007 to analyze whether ships slowed down as a result of the Notice to Mariners last year. She will also develop a tool to allow real time display and analysis of ship traffic. In addition, she will be looking at the effects of ship activity on whale behavior.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, & OUTREACH

Special Events

2008 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series

On May 13 and 14, Dan Richards (Park Marine Biologist) spoke about the history and current status of black abalone at the Channel Islands. Black abalone was once spatially dominant in the rocky intertidal zone at the northern Channel Islands, and in 2007 NMFS was petitioned to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. Richards began long-term monitoring of the rocky intertidal zone in 1985 at Santa Barbara, Anacapa, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel islands.

On June 10 and 11, Brian Latta (UC Santa Cruz, Predatory Bird Research Group lead field biologist) spoke about the Peregrine Falcon at the Channel Islands. His talk covered the decline, recovery and current status of the breeding population on the Islands, including their estimated historic population and extirpation from the Islands. He also discussed trends in eggshell thinning and productivity.

You can watch the monthly From Shore to Sea Lectures on Public Access Television!

Channel 15 in Ventura: <http://www.capstv.org>

Channel 21 in Santa Barbara:

http://www.sbchannels.tv/khxc/index.php?app=ccp0&ns=display&ref=21_schedule

The sanctuary, park, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum jointly sponsor the "From Shore to Sea" lecture series in an effort to further the understanding of science and history of the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. The programs are free and open to the public. The lectures take place at 7:00 p.m. on one Tuesday and Wednesday per month, with Tuesday lectures at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theatre, and Wednesday lectures at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. For upcoming lectures please refer to the sanctuary calendar on p. 20, or visit the sanctuary's From Shore to Sea web page: channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html.

Channel Islands Live! Telepresence Program Broadcast into Oxnard School

On June 11, the Channel Islands Live! telepresence program, a partnership between the park, sanctuary, and Ventura County Office of Education, was broadcast live into Blackstock School. As program divers explored and monitored the kelp forest community of Anacapa Marine Reserve, Anacapa Island, they communicated directly with students. This was the first broadcast directly viewed by a school audience at their school site. Media also attended the event. Chris Mobley attended on behalf of CINMS and the ONMS Bay-Watershed Education Training (B-WET) program. The reactions of students and interviews with program partners were featured in the Ventura County Star and the local KCLU National Public Radio station. Channel Islands Live! K-12 educational programming is funded through a NOAA CINMS B-WET grant.

Sanctuary Education Staff Featured at Coastal Marine Biolabs Program

During the week of July 28, Laura Francis (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) will be providing two guest lectures to a group of students participating in the first summer program offered by Coastal Marine Biolabs Integrative Biosciences Program, Inc. (Coastal Marine

Biolabs). Francis' first lecture will focus on invertebrate and fish species identification, and a comparison of underwater monitoring strategies. Her second lecture will focus on stewardship, ecosystems, biodiversity and MPAs. Coastal Marine Biolabs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing inquiry-based, multidisciplinary learning opportunities for students and educators. For more information visit: coastalmarinebiolabs.org.

Workshops and Trainings

Long-Term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) Network Strategic Planning Summit

Julie Bursek (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) will represent CINMS at a two-day LiMPETS network strategic planning summit in San Simeon, California. The aim of the summit is to begin developing a strategic plan for the LiMPETS network to ensure its continued support and growth into the future.

Sanctuary Celebrates World Ocean Day with LiMPETS Teacher Workshop

on June 8, in celebration of World Ocean Day 2008, sanctuary staff partnered with the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE) West and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium to host a LiMPETS teacher workshop and lecture. Held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, California, the workshop brought together over 25 Los Angeles Unified School District teachers and educators from informal education centers throughout southern California. The teachers enrolled in the workshop to learn how to implement LiMPETS monitoring protocols for rocky intertidal and sandy beach communities. In addition, the workshop featured a lecture by Steven Lee (University of California Los Angeles Aquatic Biologist, and Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network, or MARINe, Research Coordinator) about the importance of long-

term monitoring programs to understanding the population dynamics of rocky intertidal species, human-related impacts on these communities, and potentially climate-related species shifts. Workshop evaluations indicate that overall participants were enthusiastic about implementing LiMPETS within their schools. The LiMPETS workshop was made possible by the generous support of COSEE-West and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. For more information about COSEE-West visit <http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west>.

More About LiMPETS

LiMPETS is an environmental monitoring and education program for students, educators, and volunteers groups throughout California. Approximately 3,500 teachers and students along the coast of California are collecting rocky intertidal and sandy beach data as part of the LiMPETS network. Learn more about LiMPETS online at <http://limpetsmonitoring.org/>.



The LiMPETS sandy beach monitoring program in action at Arroyo Burro Beach in Santa Barbara. Photo: Laura Francis.

Sanctuary and UCSB Marine Science Institute Host LiMPETS Workshop

On June 19, Laura Francis and Dana Nakase (UCSB Marine Science Institute Educator) led a LiMPETS sandy beach monitoring workshop at Art From Scrap's South Coast Watershed Resource Center in Santa Barbara. Eight educators participated in the workshop, including teachers from Santa Barbara, Santa Ynez and Oxnard, as well as educators from the Ty Warner Sea

Center and South Coast Watershed Resource Center. Following an overview of the mission, goals, purpose and sandy beach monitoring techniques, educators went out into the field and practiced sampling for sand crabs. They then went back to the Watershed Resource Center to learn about the resources available on the LiMPETS web site and how to enter data into an online database. A LiMPETS rocky intertidal workshop is scheduled for July 3 at Campus Point, UCSB.

Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education and Training (TEAWET) Program Visits Sanctuary
On June 16, twenty TEAWET teachers participated in an educational trip to the sanctuary and Santa Cruz Island. The teachers learned about the research capabilities of the R/V *Shearwater* and collected plankton in the Santa Barbara Channel on their way to the Island. While on the Island, the teachers met with members of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Nature Conservancy to discuss their work on watershed issues. They also participated in a hike from Prisoner's Harbor to Pelican Bay led by a CINC Volunteer, and learned about native and endemic species living on the Island. The TEAWET program is a B-WET funded teacher professional development project of the UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. TEAWET focuses on watershed issues in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Participating teachers discover new ways to use inquiry and the local environment to teach science and how to use the watershed, from mountaintops, to creeks, to beaches, as a context for teaching social studies, art, language skills, math, and other disciplines.



TEAWET teachers enjoy Pelican Bay after a hike from Prisoner's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island. Photo courtesy Laura Francis.

Educational Products

New State-of-the-Art CINMS and "One NOAA" Touch-Screen Information Kiosks Installed in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Oxnard, and Long Beach

The ONMS has developed the user interface for a new line of state-of-the-art touch-screen information kiosks for several southern California locations. Four new CINMS information kiosks were recently installed at the California Welcome Center in Oxnard, the Ty Warner Sea Center in Santa Barbara, the Harbor Patrol office at Santa Barbara Harbor, and the Ventura Visitor Center & Convention Bureau. The sanctuary also maintains information kiosks at Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard, and the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The first "One NOAA" information kiosk is planned for installation in July 2008 at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. The "One NOAA" kiosk is the result of a partnership between the ONMS, NMFS, and the National Weather Service.

The new line of ONMS kiosks offer a high-impact visual and auditory showcase of all the treasures the national marine sanctuaries have to offer. With the click of a button, users learn about the various sanctuary activities including education and outreach programs, research projects, and resource protection programs, as well as extensive information about species and habitats, and a video-based "Visual Journey." Each kiosk also offers real-time weather information from the National Weather Service. The kiosks are also tailored to include information about sanctuary partner institutions.



Interactive information kiosks help visitors in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Oxnard learn about the sanctuary. Photo: Amy Cale.

Channel Islands Film Project Update

Progress is continuing on acquisition of high definition footage for the Channel Islands film project. From May to July the film crew generated footage of Chumash children in tide pools, Giant Coreopsis blooming at Anacapa Island, gull chicks at Anacapa Island, whales in the sanctuary, an interview with John Calambokidis (Cascadia Research Biologist), and pinnipeds at San Miguel Island. Acquisition will continue throughout the summer with post-production scheduled for the fall of 2008.

Sanctuary Launches Development of New Plumes and Blooms Online Lesson

Sanctuary education staff are working with Dave Siegel (UCSB Oceanographer), educators from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ty Warner Sea Center, and TEAWET teachers to revitalize and update the sanctuary's online Plumes and Blooms lesson. This lesson educates teachers and students about the physical and biological processes that shape the Santa Barbara Channel and its unique marine environment. On May 10, Siegel presented his research on ocean color and the impact and influence of sediment plumes and phytoplankton blooms on Santa Barbara Channel and sanctuary waters. Laura Francis presented the sanctuary's online Plumes and Blooms lesson and facilitated a discussion with teachers to solicit input and ideas for updating the lesson to include new data, grade level specific activities, and correlations to the California Environmental Education Initiative and Ocean Literacy Principles and Concepts. With teacher assistance, the new lessons will likely be completed by the end of summer 2008 and be piloted during the 2008/2009 school year. For more information on Plumes and Blooms and the online lesson, please visit:

<http://www.icess.ucsb.edu/PnB/PnB.html> and
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/pcw2/index.html>.

Meetings

ONMS 1st West Coast Region Education Meeting

From June 23-24, Julie Bursek and Laura Francis participated in the first ONMS West Coast Region Education meeting in Monterey, California.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and prioritize recommendations from the West Coast Regional Education Plan developed in 2007 to improve regional coordination and collaboration between the five national marine sanctuary sites on the west coast.

Specifically, the group looked at strategies to: implement program evaluation, address issues within coordinator roles at each site, solidify and establish cross cutting education programs and activities at the regional level (e.g., MPA outreach, LiMPETS, multicultural education, the shipwreck database, and the Teacher at Sea program), and broaden regional representation at education conferences, to name a few.

Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS) Design Meeting at UCSB

From July 9-10, Thinc project designers will come to UCSB for a two day meeting with sanctuary and UCSB educators to conduct detail design planning for the OCTOS building that is being planned for the UCSB campus.

Channel Islands Argonauts

Program Overview

Twenty-five, 4th through 7th grade students were selected to become Channel Islands Argonauts. The students participated in the Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) Academy and the Channel Islands Live! Program. These students were selected based on their submitted essays and leadership profiles. Channel Islands Argonauts is an initiative of Channel Islands Live!, which is a partnership project of the sanctuary, park, and Ventura County Office of Education, funded by a NOAA B-WET grant. The Channel Islands Argonauts are ambassadors who advocate for protection of marine resources with emphasis on the Channel Islands.

Channel Islands Argonauts Participate in Ormond Beach Clean-up Hosted by The Nature Conservancy

On May 3, the 25 Channel Islands Argonauts and their families and peers participated in a beach clean up and installed sea bird protective signs along Ormond Beach land owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Rocío Lozano-Knowlton (Sanctuary Bilingual Education and Outreach Specialist) coordinated the event, which Rich Handley (TNC Land Manager) hosted. Handley provided an interpretative hike, materials for beach clean-up and sign installation, and cameras as gifts of appreciation to the Argonauts. The group collected approximately 700 pounds of marine debris, and placed protective signs along a mile-and-a-half of fence to avoid damage to critical nesting areas for endangered

Snowy Plover and California Least Terns. Ormond Beach is a "biological hot spot" that was once a 1,000-acre system of coastal dunes, lagoons, and salt and freshwater marshes, though only a quarter of this rich habitat exists today. The Argonauts' effort was special not only because the students contributed to ocean and coastal protection, but also because they involved their families, who mainly reside in nearby areas though most had never been to or heard of the Ormond Beach wetlands.

Channel Islands Argonauts Go Live! At Anacapa Island
On June 5, the 25 Channel Islands Argonauts culminated their experiences as ocean stewards by taking part in the park's live dive broadcasting program. The Argonauts were able to pose questions from the Anacapa Island landing dock directly to the scientific divers during their underwater immersion at Anacapa Landing Cove, while other 100 students from Ventura's County public schools were observing the live broadcast at the CINP auditorium in Ventura. The Argonauts have participated in a number of environmental services throughout the year, such as informing the public about ocean issues at community events, removing invasive plants, and other activities described above.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

MERITO Program Overview

The MERITO Academy program provides high quality, sustainable science programming integrating watershed and ocean science into fourth to eight grade level public education and extended learning programs, resulting in the active contribution to ocean protection by educated and engaged youth. Currently serving 600 students participating in ten public or charter schools in Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura and Oxnard, the CINMS MERITO Academy is a partnership of CINMS, Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute, and The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with a number of other organizations. The program is funded by a CINMS NOAA B-WET grant and, as noted below, in the near future will be funded by a grant from The Amgen Foundation. For more information about the MERITO Academy visit:

www.channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/merito/programming.html.

MERITO Academy Awarded Amgen Corporate Funding
On May 5, The Amgen Foundation board approved a \$49,500 grant submitted by Rocío Lozano-Knowlton and Rich Handley to implement the MERITO Academy initiative and to serve a larger number of minority and underserved fourth to eighth grade students residing in Ventura County. The Amgen Foundation seeks to advance science education, improve quality of care and access for patients, and support resources that create sound communities where Amgen staff members live and work.

Univision Network Features CINMS & MERITO
On June 19, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, Abel Aldrete (a MERITO Academy fifth grader), and his father Mr. Aldrete were interviewed by a Univision film-crew at Anacapa Island. The interviews will be aired later this month as a short segment on “*Despierta America*,” a highly ranked, weekday morning show produced by Univision Communications, Inc. The goal of the segment is to promote the Channel Islands as a pristine travel and outdoor education destination, and to inform the large Spanish speaking audience in the United States and six countries in Latin America about the ONMS MERITO Program for Latinos and other multicultural groups. The crew expressed interest in collaborating with CINMS in the future to produce a second story at Santa Cruz Island. Univision Communications, Inc. is the leading Spanish language media company in the United States, entertaining and informing more Hispanics every day than any other media company in the country.



A Univision film crew interviews Rocío Lozano-Knowlton on Anacapa Island for the *Despierta America* morning show. Photo: Shauna Bingham.

MERITO Academy Participated in B-WET Conference
From May 16-17, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, Laura Francis, and Shannon Newby (MERITO Academy Program Manger) participated in and presented a poster at the first annual NOAA B-WET conference in Monterey, California. Sixty educators and B-WET grant recipients from San Francisco to Oxnard participated in the conference.

During the first day of the conference at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, B-WET grant recipients reported on their projects' successes, challenges and evaluation programs. The second day of the conference included a tour of the Carmel Middle School Hilton Bialek Habitat and organic gardens, as well as presentations about the ONMS Education Program, multicultural education, LiMPETS, water quality monitoring, blending research and education, the Channel Islands MPA network, SIMoN, and integrating NOAA resources into environmental education.

The conference was an excellent venue for sanctuary educators to interact, share resources and network with California B-WET grant recipients, and to discuss current and future collaborations.

MERITO Academy Field Experiences
On May 9, 30 fifth grade students from Canalino Elementary participated in coastal monitoring and restoration at Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR) in Santa Barbara as part of their CINMS MERITO Academy meaningful field experiences. The students conducted sandy beach monitoring using LiMPETS protocols, explored the magnificent COPR tide pools, and assisted graduate students from the UCSB Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Restoration in removing approximately 800 pounds of invasive plants by the slough. The students also observed endangered Snowy Plover and received a briefing about their natural history from researcher Jennifer Stroh.



A 5th grader from Canalino Elementary proudly removes an invasive plant at Coal Oil Point Reserve. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.



Araceli Dominguez (MERITO intern) teaches Canalino Elementary 5th graders how to explore tide pools at Coal Oil Point Reserve. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

On May 27, 27 primarily Hispanic MERITO Academy seventh graders from a low-income middle school in Oxnard embarked on the R/V *Shearwater* towards Anacapa Island. Rocío Lozano-Knowlton and Shauna Bingham led the educational expedition. The students collected and identified plankton species. Upon their arrival, the students participated in hands-on educational activities, an interpretative hike, and the Channel Islands Live! dive program.



Emily Ritchen Elementary 6th graders observe a common dolphin during their culminating MERITO Academy trip to Anacapa Island. Photo: Shauna Bingham.

On June 5, 9, 10, 12 and 19, two-hundred fifty 4th to 6th grade students, plus approximately 50 chaperones from

Oxnard, Ventura, and Santa Barbara, participated in meaningful field experiences at the Channel Islands as their culminating school year event. The MERITO Academy Program coordinated, instructed and sponsored these experiences. During the 2007-2008 school year, the MERITO Academy served 600 underserved students with the following ethnic breakdown: 85% Hispanic, 10% recent migrants from Cambodia, Egypt, and the Philippines, with the remaining 5% Caucasian or African American. The students are enrolled at Sunkist, Montalvo, Franklin and Emily Ritchen Elementary Schools, which are all Title I, Head Start, or New Comers elementary schools. Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, Shannon Newby, Shauna Bingham, Laura Francis, Marty Flam (CINC volunteer), and Island Packers staff led the field experiences. Students observed thousands of common dolphins, hundreds of sea lions, island foxes, and breaching humpback whales. Students participated in interpretative hikes, witnessed hundreds of Western Sea Gulls hatching, and observed and posed questions to park divers during the Channel Islands Live! dive program.



MERITO students enjoy a hike above Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island. Photo: Laura Francis.

Bilingual Outreach to Multicultural Audiences

On May 29, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, among 30 other Hispanic professionals, served as a role model to 2,000 students during the Duarte High School career day event. The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) and the offices of Congresswoman Hilda Solis organized the event. The goal of this career day was to inspire Hispanic youth to pursue careers in environmental science and natural resource fields, and in

general to show that opportunities are available to everyone. NHEC is the only national Latino environmental organization in the country, a non-profit organization with over 5,000 members who share common goals with ONMS in seeking to educate culturally diverse communities on environmental issues.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program

Program Overview

CINC volunteers educate local school children, residents, and tourists; monitor sanctuary and park resources; and conduct research on board local whale watch vessels departing out of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Islands harbors. The field season runs from January – October, capturing the presence of migrating gray whales and foraging blue and humpback whales. In addition to field interpretation and research, CINC volunteers offer slide presentations for local schools and community groups, represent the sanctuary and park at marine-related community outreach events, and distribute outreach materials to area marine-related businesses through the Adopt-A-Business Program.

The sanctuary partners with the park to administer the CINC volunteer program. During the first year of service, CINC volunteers represent the sanctuary and park on board local whale watch vessels and educational cruises. After completion of the initial training to become whale watch interpreters, additional training opportunities are available for volunteers to become certified to lead island hikes through the park.

CINC Program Expansion

This spring the sanctuary and park merged the park's overnight volunteer program with the CINC program. This added 35 volunteers (for a total of 155 CINC volunteers) and over 9,000 hours of service to the program. The park volunteers joining the CINC will receive a new uniform, are attending additional training about the sanctuary, and will be representing the sanctuary on multi-day trips at the islands. This effort furthers the sanctuary-park partnership, and will provide consistent messages to visitors of the sanctuary and park.

May and June Excursions

Island Programs: In May, CINC island hike naturalists participated in 22 Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage, and one trip to Anacapa Island aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*, and eight trips to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In June, naturalists participated in twelve Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage, one trip to Anacapa Island, and four trips to Santa Rosa Island aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*. In June they also participated in six trips to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In total, CINC naturalists participated in 54 May and June island hike trips.

Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab: CINC volunteers participated on board the Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab's vessel *Coral Sea*. CINC volunteers learned how to conduct hands-on oceanographic experiments for students to analyze the biological, chemical and physical properties of the ocean. Volunteers primarily man the physical oceanography station identifying harbor marine life during the 3 1/2 hour on-board lab program. Some trips may include a coastal gray whale watch. These trips will provide veteran volunteers in the CINC program an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and will provide local educators and students with the opportunity to learn more about the sanctuary and park.

In May and June the Ventura County Maritime Museum held a total of 29 floating lab trips. They had 18 in May, and seven in June on board the *Coral Sea*, out of Channel Islands Harbor. They also had four trips in May on the *Ranger 85*, out of Channel Islands Harbor. Floating Lab trips ended to coincide with the end of the school year.

Whale Watching Excursions:

Harbor	Santa Barbara			Ventura
Vessel	<i>Condor Express</i>	<i>Double Dolphin</i>	<i>Speedtwin</i>	<i>Island Adventure & Islander</i>
Business	Sea Landing	Santa Barbara Sailing Center	Captain Don's	Island Packers
May trips	24	43	51	0
June trips	30	3	28	2

In May and June concessionaires provided 181 whale watching excursions (118 in May, and 63 in June). Many scheduled whale watching trips were cancelled this season due to inclement weather. Excursions listed for each vessel in the table above only include those with CINC volunteers on board. Trips may have multiple naturalists aboard. Island Packers will start their summer whale watching season in late June in Ventura.

Channel Islands Live! Dive Program

CINC volunteers will provide vital support to the Channel Islands Live! underwater video uplink program with topside interpretation and diver support on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays throughout the summer season. The program began for the summer season on May 27, and is broadcast from the Anacapa Island Landing Cove, educating the public about the kelp forest, ecology, and MPAs. Thousands of island visitors and school children experienced the program during May and June.

Trainings

Photo I.D. Training: On May 22, John Calambokidis, founder of Cascadia Research Collective, discussed the use of photo-identification as a tool to understand population dynamics of blue and humpback whales in the Eastern North Pacific and Santa Barbara Channel. He also discussed photo-I.D. data contributed by CINC volunteers, and answered questions for volunteers participating in the CINC photo-I.D. effort.

CINC Island Hike Training: An island hike training course for new and returning CINC volunteers was conducted in April with the CINP, in addition to a field trip on board the *R/V Shearwater* to Anacapa Island and Scorpion Anchorage at East Santa Cruz Island. The second phase includes a shadow trip to the Channel Islands with a trained CINC volunteer and an evaluation trip with CINP staff to complete the certification process. Several additional volunteers have been certified in 2008.

Monthly In-Service Meetings

Monthly meetings for the CINC run from February through September on the third Tuesday of each month. On May 20, Dr. Charles Rennie of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History gave a talk on the biology of blue and humpback whales. On June 17, Ralph Collier of the Shark Research Committee gave a lecture on

sharks of the Pacific coast. Training meetings have an average attendance of 90-100 volunteers since the integration of the CINC volunteer program with the park.

Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division Presents "Your Navy and Marine Mammal Resources" to CINC Volunteers

On May 14, Rear Admiral Lawrence Rice (Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division) spoke to the CINC volunteers in Santa Barbara. Rice discussed the Navy's commitment to environmental stewardship, especially marine mammal protection, and how it is directly tied to mission readiness. He also shared the Navy's lessons learned from past use of active sonar and how those lessons impact the Navy's use of sonar today, described why the Navy is considered to be a world leader in marine mammal research, and explained the numerous protective measures taken to minimize risk to marine mammals. A question and answer session followed Rice's presentation.

Adopt A Business Program

CINC volunteers continue to deliver the sanctuary's *Protecting your Channel Islands* brochures to businesses that provide services to Channel Islands recreational users. Approximately 5,000 brochures have been distributed through this program in the first quarter of 2008.

Public Outreach

Sanctuary Divers Help With Santa Barbara Harbor Annual Clean Sweep

On May 3, sanctuary staff joined the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the Surfrider Foundation, the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, harbor dive businesses, local urchin fishermen, CINC and other volunteers to retrieve trash from the bottom of the Santa Barbara Harbor as part of Operation Clean Sweep – a cooperative municipal clean up effort in Santa Barbara. The group recovered several tons of debris, with a significant amount of potentially toxic materials (e.g., car batteries, transformers, and petroleum products). Mick Kronman (Santa Barbara Harbor Operations Manager) sent an official letter of gratitude for the partnership and effectiveness of the effort on the part of the sanctuary diving unit.

Sanctuary Partners With U.S. Coast Guard to Promote Safe Boating

On May 12, the sanctuary provided outreach at the Channel Islands Harbor 3rd Annual Safe Boating Expo. Shauna Bingham worked with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 07 on the Safe Boating Expo planning committee, which involves agencies that play a key role in emergency response and safe boating at the Channel Islands. The event included search and rescue demonstrations using vessels and helicopters from the U.S. Coast Guard, Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura County Sheriff, Oxnard City Fire Department, and Channel Islands Harbor Patrol. The National Weather Service, U.S. Power Squadron, and American Red Cross also participated in the event. Event sponsors hosted vessel tours, fire extinguisher training, emergency positioning radio beacon (EPIRP) testing, life raft deployment, outdated flare disposal, and vessel safety examinations.

Santa Barbara Children's Festival

On May 17, the sanctuary and park joined the Museum Educators Roundtable to host hands-on activities for the annual Santa Barbara Children's Festival at Alameda Park. CINC volunteers provided a hands-on and very popular watershed and pollution activity during the festival.



CINC Volunteer Michelle Gibbs demonstrating a watershed and pollution activity at the annual Santa Barbara Children's Festival. Photo: Carol Peterson.

MERITO and CINC Reach 1,500 Underserved Students During the Oxnard H₂O Science Exploratorium

On May 22, Rocio Lozano-Knowlton and four CINC volunteers informed 1,500 third grade students about sanctuary marine resources and how they can contribute to ocean protection through simple actions at home. Lozano-Knowlton and the volunteers used a watershed model to provide urban runoff demonstrations of ways in which the students can help protect the ocean. The H₂O Science Exploratorium is an event organized and sponsored by the City of Oxnard to educate Oxnard School District third grade students, who are primarily Hispanic, about water conservation, science, and water resource protection.

Channel Islands Live! Dive Broadcasts

On May 28, 29 and June 4, 5, and 12, CINC volunteers participated in the Channel Islands Live! broadcasts from Anacapa Island to the park visitor center in Ventura. CINC volunteers also led fourth through sixth graders in a hands-on nautical chart mapping activity to learn about shipwrecks and MPAs in the sanctuary.

Sanctuary and Park Participate in National Geographic's 2008 BioBlitz Event

From May 30-31, the sanctuary and park participated in National Geographic's 2008 BioBlitz in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The event was sponsored in collaboration with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California State Parks. BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible. CINC volunteers provided information about the biodiversity of sanctuary and park ecosystems during both days of the event. Several sanctuary volunteers assisted with surveys helping to identify over 1,664 different species during the 24-hour period. Hundreds of area school children participated in the event on both days. For more information about BioBlitz visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz.html>.

Sanctuary Participates in World Ocean Day Events

The sanctuary participated in the June 7 Ocean Awareness Festival sponsored by the Ty Warner Sea Center in Santa Barbara. The event was hosted as part of World Ocean Day and connected community members to ocean issues and conservation. The festival

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Field Report: May 30, 2007

Marty Flam and I carpooled to Santa Barbara to save gas and enjoy the great company. We boarded the *Speed Twin* early and observed a Santa Barbara Channel 12 news crew filming a story. Allegedly there was also a person there from Channel 2. Even though I was wary of the camera, I had a higher sense of expectation today than usual. The boat had an assortment of locals, plus mid-westerners, and numerous foreigners. There was a honeymooning couple from London and a little boy who only knew Russian, although I kept speaking to him in English. Everyone seemed in a very upbeat mood. The day was beautiful. The ocean was calm with barely even a breeze. *Speed Twin* Captain Steve's wife Celia had put the most delicious cherries out to eat!

Steve knew where to find those friendly humpbacks that we've heard a lot about from many other reports. As soon as we got about six miles out we found three "humpies." As we got close one quickly departed, but the other two stayed and decided to bond with us. As we neared them, Steve stopped moving the boat and they came right to us and decided to enjoy our company for an hour or more.

The humpies spy-hopped so close to the boat that we could nearly touch them. They blew at the bow so many times I stopped counting. They rolled over right at the side of the boat. They lifted their tails right at the bow causing the boat to shift substantially. They stuck their noses up and just looked at us over and over, as we looked at them. It felt like a real bonding moment for whales and humans alike: two different species very curious about one another, and trying to interact. During this hour or so session, the longest we went without seeing a whale was about a minute or two at the most. They were not feeding, and were just two friendly whales who were as involved with checking us out as we were with them.

One of these whales, who I'm calling "chewy," has a tail that looks chewed off. I've seen this whale a few times. It looks like only about 50% of its original tail remains, and it has a very distinctive dive. It throws its tail straight up (to 90 degrees) and then goes straight down. My theory is that because the chewed off tail no longer provides enough propulsion it must get all of its weight up in the air to try to dive deeper. If you see it dive, you'll know what I mean.

The other whale had a normal tail, but has a "scar collar" around its neck, behind the blowhole. Maybe it had been caught in a net or rope at one point. The scar looks pretty even and symmetrical like it's wearing a necklace.

What great fun to see these two creatures up close and personal. We also saw a dozen or so bottlenose dolphins. How blessed I am to have been a witness to such majesty.

- Scott Cuzzo
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps 2008

Note from the Sanctuary Volunteer Outreach Coordinator: The Santa Barbara News-Press ran an article on June 1 entitled "Whale of a Good Time" about these humpback whales, complete with photos. A special Santa Barbara Channel 12 television news report was also aired on these beautiful animals.

attracted over 400 community members and included a beach clean-up event and plastic bag exchange. On June 8 the sanctuary participated in a second community event at the Santa Barbara Zoo. The Zoo's "Wonders of Water" event focused on the ocean, local creeks, and marine animals with an ocean conservation message reaching out to over 1,700 people estimated in attendance.

Sanctuary and Park Represented at Clean Creeks and Oceans Event

On June 14, CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary and park at a Clean Creeks and Oceans community event. The event, hosted by the Watershed Resource Center, included hands-on activities to explore watersheds, water quality testing, and sanctuary marine life. A local third grade classroom performed a water pollution skit during the event and the Chumash Maritime Association displayed their ocean going *Tomol*, or wood plank canoe.

MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM



Henry Silka at Cavern Point, Santa Cruz Island in 2004.

On May 11, a memorial at sea on board the brigantine *Exy Johnson* was held for Henry "Hank" Silka. Silka was a founding member of the Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources (CMAR) organization, which has supported historical research and field work recording shipwrecks in the Channel Islands since 1993. The memorial included a Los Angeles fireboat escort with fire nozzle water salute from Port O'Call to the Los Angeles breakwater. Robert Schwemmer (Sanctuary Maritime Heritage Coordinator), a long time friend of Silka, gave the eulogy that was followed by a cannon



Hank Silka with the CMAR group conducting a shipwreck shore survey at Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island in 2004.

salute off Point Fermin. The Huntington Library in San Marino, where Silka conducted research for his work on Brooklyn shipbuilders and helped to mentor many colleagues engaged in maritime studies, recognized Silka's scholarly contributions. His most recent published works include:

- Silka, H. 2006. "Shipbuilding and the Nascent Community of Greenpoint, New York, 1850-1855." *The Northern Mariner* 16(2): 15-54.
- Silka, Henry P., and Marifrances Trivelli. 2000. "Greenpoint, Greenport: At Opposite Ends of Long Island." *American Neptune* 60(3): 289-303. RG036/RG041.

For more information about Mr. Silka please visit: <http://henrypsilka.com/>.

The Book Club of California, founded in 1912, is a non-profit organization of book lovers and collectors who have a special interest in Pacific Coast history, literature, and fine printing. Its chief aims are to further the interests of book collectors and scholars and to promote an understanding and appreciation of fine books. A special keepsakes series on Pacific Mail Steamship Company side-wheel steamers will be published in 2008. Robert Schwemmer authored two of the fourteen keepsakes, featuring the California Gold Rush steamer *Winfield Scott* lost at Anacapa Island in 1853, and *Colorado* selected as the inaugural steamer to start the transpacific mail service between San Francisco, China and Japan in 1867. For more information about the Book Club of California please visit:

<http://www.bccbooks.org/index.htm>. For information about the *Winfield Scott* please visit:
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/w infieldscott1.html>.

West Coast Region Maritime Heritage Program



Charles Morgan – the oldest and last traditional whaling vessel. The Mystic Seaport historic collection includes papers of Captain A Healy, commander of the Pacific revenue cutter *Bear*.
Photo: Robert V. Schwemmer.

From June 15 to June 19, Robert Schwemmer attended the ONMS-sponsored 2008 Whaling Heritage Symposium. Over 100 attendees participated in the event, along with co-sponsors NMFS and the National Maritime Historical Society, and co-host institutions Mystic Seaport, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Highlights of the symposium included: a tour of the historic whaling ship *Charles Morgan*; the resource collections at the Mystic, New Bedford, and Nantucket whaling museums; and Dan Basta (ONMS Director) and Rear Admiral Doug Teeson (Mystic Seaport President) signing a Memorandum of Agreement between ONMS and Mystic Seaport in support of collaborative heritage preservation projects. The broad-ranging Whaling Heritage Symposium, the first event of its kind, went far beyond simply the retelling of historic whaling narratives. The program speakers brought together important issues, such as the cultural heritage of indigenous whaling, minority populations and American whaling history, the geography of whaling archaeology and MPAs, and new directions in marine mammal research that benefit from historical resources. Schwemmer served as photographer and videographer at the symposium and conducted several oral interviews

CHANNEL ISLANDS: STORIES FROM THE PAST

Ninety Seven Years ago the *Los Angeles Times* reported the following story on June 26, 1911.

WHALE MISTOOK YACHT FOR MATE.

Mischief I, the fast sloop yacht of vice-Commodore Warren D. Wood of the South Coast Yacht Club, narrowly escaped serious accident while sailing in the race for the McFarland cup around Santa Barbara Island yesterday. When half way between the west end of Catalina and Santa Barbara Islands, a huge whale, at least sixty feet in length, arose directly across the bow of the yacht and stayed there. Wright Hoag, who had the stick, aroused the crew with a yell of "Ready about. Hard a Ice." The yacht was brought about in the nick of time to prevent striking the huge mammal. The whale repeatedly arose in front of the boat, and all hands were kept busy preventing a collision. The bottom of the yacht had been coasted with phosphor bronze, for racing, and the color is somewhat the same as that of a whale. The monster undoubtedly took the yacht for a member of his own tribe, and wanted to become friendly. Warren Wood finally brought a high-power rifle on deck and poured a leaden hail into Mr. Whale as he came to the surface a fourth time and spouted across the boat's bow. For a second he did not appear to mind it. Then, half jumping out of the water, he dove and appeared no more.

with whaling historians as well as Makah and Inupiat attendees.

WEB SITE (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the CINMS web site.

The CINMS home page is sporting a new design thanks to Bob Schwemmer's great photography. See the new design at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>.

The advisory council section of the web site has been updated to host new representatives and advisory council meeting information at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

The blue whale ship strike web page has been updated. This page is offered on the home page news 'ticker' drop down menu, and also at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/alert.html>.

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events and "what's new" pages to find out what is happening locally:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/wnew.html>

Upcoming Modifications

Discussions are in progress to upgrade the Shipwreck Database to a West Coast Regional database. Meetings are being held to discuss plans to develop four new sanctuary database projects: Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis Program (SAMSAP), West Coast Observation, R/V *Shearwater*, and edits to the Marine Mammal Sightings database. The blue whale ship strike page is in development along with the annual NOAA website certification and inventory requirements.

Please take a few moments to view the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions can be sent to amy.cale@noaa.gov.



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS) NEWS



5th Annual Santa Barbara Channel Relay Swim

The 5th Annual Santa Barbara Channel Relay Swim will take place September 12-13, 2008. The event is sponsored by the Santa Barbara Channel Swimming Association, and this year will benefit the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in support of ocean conservation at the Channel Islands. For more information visit:

<http://www.santabarbarachannelswim.org/index.html>.

New Toll-Free Navigation Inquiry Line

The NOAA Office of Coast Survey recently implemented a new toll-free Navigation Inquiry Line. This new inquiry line will speed the processing capability of incoming navigation inquiries and greatly improve customer service to the navigation community. The new toll free number is: 1-888-990-NOAA. For more information please visit:

<http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm>.

MPA Federal Advisory Committee Delivers Recommendations

The MPA Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) has formally transmitted a set of recommendations to NOAA Administrator VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kaush Arha. Recommendations include: 1) management principles regarding compliance and enforcement of MPA regulations, and 2) collective comments from the MPA

FAC on the *Revised Draft Framework for Developing a National System of Marine Protected Areas*. The recommendations are intended to assist the Departments of Commerce and the Interior with developing an effective National System of MPAs.

MPA Center Unveils Online MPA Inventory

The NOAA MPA Center has unveiled the new MPA Inventory at www.mpa.gov. The MPA Inventory is based on the previously developed Marine Managed Areas Inventory, which was active from 2001-2007. The MPA Inventory contains information on nearly 1,800 sites and is the only such dataset in the nation.

New Report on Coastal Waters Shows Decline in Contaminants

On May 12, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) released a 20-year study showing that environmental laws have had a positive effect on reducing overall contaminant levels in U.S. coastal waters. However, the report points to continuing concerns with elevated levels of metals and organic contaminants found near coastal urban and industrial areas. The report, "NOAA National Status and Trends Mussel Watch Program: An Assessment of Two Decades of Contaminant Monitoring in the Nation's Coastal Zone from 1986-2005," is available online at <http://www.nсандt.noaa.gov/>.

THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

JULY	
Jul. 8, 9	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Jan Timbrook, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History <i>Chumash Ethnohistory</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Jul. 10-13	<i>13th Annual Ventura County In-Water Boat Show</i> Channel Islands Harbor For more information visit: http://www.ci-boatshow.com/
Jul. 18	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
Jul. 30-Aug. 10	<i>Ventura County Fair, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura</i> For more information visit: http://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/index.html
AUGUST	
Jul. 30-Aug. 10	<i>Ventura County Fair, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura</i> For more information visit: http://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/index.html
Aug. 7-10	<i>Tall Ships Festival 2008, Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard</i> For more information visit: http://www.tallshipschannelislands.com/
Aug. 12, 13	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Paul Collins & Michelle Berman, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History <i>Investigations of the Recent Blue Whale Deaths in Central California</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Aug. 15-17	<i>2008 Festival of Sail at the Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro</i> For more information please visit: http://www.portoflosangeles.org/newsroom/tallships.asp
Aug. 20-24	<i>Festival of Sail San Diego 2008, San Diego Bay</i> For more information visit the San Diego Maritime Museum's web site at: http://www.sdmaritime.com/index.asp
SEPTEMBER	
Sep. 9, 10	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> (Speaker and Topic To Be Announced) Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Sep. 19	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
Sep. 20	<i>24th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day</i> CINMS sponsored beaches: Santa Barbara – Chase Palm Park Beach / Ventura – Emma Wood State Beach For general information about this event please visit: http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

Christopher Mobley *Superintendent*

Todd Jacobs *Deputy Superintendent*

Michael Murray *Deputy Superintendent,
Advisory Council and
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Amy Cale – *Web Developer*

LTJG Matt Davis – *Operations Officer*

Steve Dyer – *Vessel Captain*

Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*

Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*

Steve Katz – *Research Coordinator*

Charles Lara – *Vessel Operator*

Dani Lipski – *Research Assistant*

Bill MacDuffee – *Vessel Captain*

Sarah MacWilliams – *Management Plan Specialist*

Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*

Natalie Senyk – *Scientific Advisor*

Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*

Ben Waltenberger – *Physical Scientist*

Rebecca Young – *Program Support Specialist*

Ventura County Field Office

Shauna Bingham – *Volunteer Program and Outreach
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Julie Bursek – *Education Coordinator*

Clare Fritzsche – *CINM Volunteer Program & Administrative
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Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*

Rocío Lozano de Knowlton – *Bilingual Education & Outreach
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Tina Reed – *Administrative Support Coordinator*

CINMS Interns

Steve Choy – *Resource Protection Specialist*

NMSP West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Superintendent*

Matt Brookhart – *Policy Coordinator*

Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*

Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

Local ONMS Staff

Claire Fackler – *West Coast Education Liaison*

Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Kelly Darnell – *Acting Executive Director*

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary produces the Sanctuary Superintendent's Report in conjunction with bi-monthly Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The National Marine Sanctuary System consists of 14 marine protected areas that encompass more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The NMSP, which manages the system, was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Visit the NMSP web site at:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>

- CONTACT INFORMATION -

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